



St. Michael's C of E Primary School



Collective Worship Policy

Vision

"Life in all its fullness"

Our vision guides us in all that we hope to be, enabling every part of our community to grow and develop. This means growing in body, mind and spirit in order to flourish and experience the joy and hope of, 'life in its fullness' (John 10v10)

Policy Reviewed and Adopted by Board of Directors:	Autumn Term 2023
Date of Next Review:	Autumn Term 2024
Responsible Officer:	Lindsey Vollans

Introduction

Collective Worship at St. Michael's Church of England Primary School takes place daily in accordance with provisions of the School Standards and Framework Act, 1998 and the Church of England's Collective Worship Guidance, 2021. The staff and Local Advisory Board of St. Michael's C of E Primary School see the main purpose of the school is that of providing a high standard of education, both academic and social, in a Christian context, ensuring that this provision is made available to all of its pupils. It is an important aim of the school to nurture a sense of personal worth for all its pupils through encouraging them to do their best in order to fulfil their individual potential; recognition of effort, attitude and commitment being as worthy of merit as high levels of achievement.

Aims

- To enable pupils to explore and respond to a variety of forms of worship, thus allowing those pupils with a religious commitment to deepen their experience of worship, and those without a religious commitment to begin to appreciate
- To explore and share the belief of others
- To enable pupils to approach the threshold of worship by fostering in them an attitude characterised by feelings such as humility, awe, wonder, appreciation, thankfulness, respect, reverence and elation.
- To allow children opportunities to experience and appreciate the use of symbolism and religious language to express feelings and belief.
- To allow children to consider 'big questions' about existence; enabling pupils to become comfortable with reflection, and silences, drawing on all the senses as they develop a sense of awe and wonder about the universe.
- To enable pupils to consider spiritual and moral issues and the questions these raise in their lives and the lives of others.
- To enable pupils to make use of silence as a time for reflection, contemplation, meditation and, if appropriate, prayer.
- To encourage respect and care for God's creation.
- To acknowledge the things which have meaning, value and purpose for the pupils as individuals, as well as for the school and the wider community.
- To develop a sense of community within and beyond the school.
- To celebrate achievements, special occasions and special events in relation to individual pupils within school, to the school as a whole, or to the wider community.
- To acknowledge and respect difference and diversity.
- To be inclusive and accessible by ensuring all are included and have a voice.
- To be invitational by offering everyone the opportunity to engage whilst allowing the freedom for those of other faiths and none to be present with integrity.
- To be inspiring by having an impact on the whole community and motivating them to action.

Definition

Collective Worship and assembly are not the same, although worship may be part of an assembly. Collective Worship is defined as worship appropriate to a group of individuals possessing a range of beliefs, believers and non-believers. Collective worship at St. Michael's C of E Primary School takes place daily. Styles may vary from day to day though it is intended that the various forms will together promote the spiritual and moral development of pupils. The daily act of collective worship will be "wholly of a broadly Christian character," whilst acknowledging the desirability to show respect and regard for other religions, as an Anglican foundation, collective worship at St. Michael's C of E Primary School has a Christian orientation.

Values

At St. Michael's C of E Primary School, we have identified seven values that are woven into the very fabric of the school which we expect all members of the school community to model:

- Koinonia
- Creation
- Endurance
- Wisdom
- Justice
- Hope
- Service

Expectations of pupils:

During Collective Worship pupils will be given opportunities for:

- Individual response and reflection
- Listening and thinking about the world, themselves and others;
- Introducing pupils to the use of symbolism and religious language to express feelings and beliefs;
- Sharing in experiences of e.g. sadness, excitement, joy, thankfulness,
- Togetherness and challenge;
- Silence, stillness, meditation, contemplation and, if appropriate, prayer;
- Celebration of the shared values in the school community

Anglican Tradition

As a Church of England Primary School we include the following Christian elements of collective worship:

- Using the Bible, either as a source book, or as an inspiration for themes and stories
- Observing the cycle of the Church's Year -Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Saints Days
- Learning and saying traditional prayers from a number of sources, in particular the Lord's Prayer and simple responses
- Singing a wide variety of hymns, from traditional to modern
- Experiencing Christian symbols in worship and reflecting on their meaning e.g. cross, crucifix, bread and wine, colours of the church year
- The use of readings, poetry, prayer, silence and reflection
- Using Psalms with simple responses
- Using Anglican sentences and responses e.g. The Lord is here / His Spirit is with us, Peace be with you/ and also with you, Go in peace to love and serve the Lord / In the name of Christ, Amen

Organisation

In accordance with both our Trust Deed and with the statutory requirements, Collective Worship is organised in St. Michael's C of E Primary School at the centre of the school's daily life. Worship is organised and lead by staff, our clergy and involves the pupils whenever appropriate.

Timetable

Monday	Whole School Worship led by a range of teaching staff and on occasions by local clergy
Tuesday	Whole School Worship led by a range of teaching staff and on occasions by local clergy
Wednesday	Whole School Worship led by a range of teaching staff and on occasions by local clergy
Thursday	Whole School Worship led by a range of teaching staff and on occasions by local clergy
Friday	Celebration Worship led by a range of teaching staff

Collective Worship happens every day. At the time of Worship, a candle will be lit as a clear visual focus for the children to reflect upon. Lunchtime prayers are said in classes before dismissal for lunch. Home time prayers are observed in all classes prior to dismissal at the end of the school day.

The right to withdraw

The 1944 and 1988 Education Acts state that parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship and suitable arrangements should be made to accommodate these children. On occasions, a parent may make a request for their child to be withdrawn from Collective Worship. Where this is the case, the headteacher would recommend a meeting with parents to discuss their concerns and requirements. It may be helpful to establish:

- The elements of worship in which the parent would object to the child taking part
- The other aspects of school life that are impacted by the Christian foundation of the school such as prayer and reflective areas
- The practical implications of withdrawal
- Whether the parent will require any advanced notice of such worship, and if so, how much

Where parents have withdrawn their children from collective worship and request religious worship according to their particular faith or denomination, the governors and head teacher will seek to respond positively to such requests providing:

- Such arrangements can be made at no additional cost to the school
- That the alternative provision would be consistent with the overall purposes of the school curriculum as set out in the Education Acts

If the Parent asks that a pupil should be wholly or partly excused from attending any religious worship at the school, then the school must comply. Any child who is withdrawn from an act or acts of Collective Worship will be supervised during that time by a member of the school staff.

Teachers have the right to withdraw from collective worship, as a Church School, however it is expected that teachers will take part in and lead worship.

The contribution of Collective Worship to Aspects of the Curriculum

Collective Worship can contribute to all other areas of the curriculum, enriching class work, providing different perspectives, promoting thought and understanding and encouraging of further study.

Assessment and Review/Evaluation

The acts of worship will be evaluated by the Senior Leadership Team, Collective Worship Leader, Local Advisory Board, staff and children on a regular basis. Worship will be monitored to ensure that:

- Agreed and planned content is being covered
- A variety of approaches and methodology are used
- High standards and quality are maintained
- Collective Worship has been led by a variety of leaders
- Evaluation of parent and pupils reactions

Pupils are audited to ascertain their views on the worship provided in school. They are given feedback and their thoughts and ideas are adopted where possible.

Special Occasions

Harvest Festival

- Whole school along with parents/families
- Held in school or St. Michael's Church
- Takes place in October usually
- Order of Service prepared by Music Subject Leader and Worship Leader

Whole School Nativity

- Whole school along with parents/families
- Held in school or St. Michael's Church
- Takes place in December
- Order of Service prepared by Music Subject Leader and Worship Leader

Easter Service

- Whole school along with parents/families
- Takes place in the final week of term
- Held in school or St Michael's Church
- Order of Service prepared by Music Subject Leader and Worship Leader

Leavers

- Whole school along with parents/families
- Takes place just before end of Summer term
- Held in St Michael's Church
- Order of Service prepared by Year 6 teacher and Worship Leader

Invitations to attend Worship

- Parents, friends and governors are invited to all events which are shared in the calendar at the beginning of the academic year.